

Guidelines for Providing Public Comment to the Marine Life Protection Act North Coast Project

The Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) Initiative is designed as a transparent, science-based, stakeholder-driven process. As such, public comment is important to the success of the marine protected area (MPA) planning process. There are different methods available for public comment, both verbally and in writing.

Verbal Comments at Meetings

All meetings of the MLPA Initiative's marine protected area planning process will offer a minimum of one opportunity for public comment; actions items also have public comment associated with them. The time for public comment will be noticed in the agenda for each meeting:

- For the upcoming MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force Meeting (BRTF) meeting in Fortuna, public comment will begin at approximately 3:00 p.m. on Monday, October 25, 2010. Helpful public comment includes:
 - Feedback on specific MPAs or special closures, including boundaries, designation type, proposed allowed uses (take regulations) and general location. Do you support what is being proposed? If not, can you offer a specific change to the MPA boundaries, designation type, proposed allowed uses and/or general location that would make it more acceptable?
 - Feedback on the complete proposal.

Wall maps of the Round 3 NCRSG MPA Proposal and Round 3 NCRSG Special Closures Recommendation will be available for public viewing at the meeting location.

- As an alternative to attending the meeting in Fortuna, the public is welcome to attend a public participation location to view the meeting and/or provide public comment:

C.V. Starr Community Center
300 South Lincoln Street
Fort Bragg, CA 95437

Location TBD
Crescent City, CA

Guidelines for general public comment at meetings include:

- Speakers with a shared message or from the same organization are encouraged to combine speaking points. Speakers with ceded time will be placed at the front of the queue.
- Speakers must be present and turn in their own cards (this applies to all individual speakers who wish to cede their time to other speakers).
- Comment cards will be counted and, at the discretion of staff or the chair, time allocated to each speaker will be based on the total available time and number of individuals wishing to speak.
- Media presentations, such as slides and videos, are permitted by prior arrangement (contact Kelly at 707-832-4088 or kelly@strategicearth.com) and may be limited depending on time availability.
- An atmosphere of respect and consideration among the public is essential for a productive comment period. Personal attacks, verbal threats, hostile comments, clapping, jeering and the like will not be tolerated.

Written Comments

Written comments are encouraged to be submitted by October 18, 2010 so that BRTF members receive and have an opportunity to review them prior to the October 25-26 meeting. Written comments received between October 19 and 21 will be provided to the BRTF at the October meeting; after October 21, written comments must be received at the BRTF meeting in Fortuna. Written comments can be submitted via:

Online: http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa/round3comments_nc.asp (through October 18 only)

Email

MLPAComments@resources.ca.gov

Mail

Marine Life Protection Act Initiative
c/o California Natural Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

FAX

916.653.8102

September 28, 2010

Background

At its August 30-31, 2010 meeting, the MLPA North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (NCRSG) developed a single MPA proposal in Round 3 of the north coast MPA planning process; the NCRSG also developed a recommendation for special closures. The MPA proposal and special closures will be analyzed by the MLPA Master Plan Science Advisory Team, California Department of Fish and Game, California Department of Parks and Recreation, and MLPA Initiative staff. The proposal and special closures will also be reviewed by the MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force at its October 25-26, 2010 meeting in Fortuna.

Information about the Round 3 NCRSG MPA Proposal and Recommendation for Special Closures are available:

Online: http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa/mpaproposals_nc.asp

MarineMap: <http://northcoast.marinemap.org/> (under the "MPA Proposals" tab)

Name of the proposal is Round 3 NCRSG MPA Proposal

Name of the special closures recommendation is Round 3 NCRSG Special Closures Recommendation

Print or CD: Contact the MLPA office at mlpaoffice@resources.ca.gov or 916.654.1885